

[29 November, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

The Committee was to submit its report within a period of three months. However, in view of the enormous work involved, it has been decided with the approval of the competent authority to extend the tenure of the Committee up to the end of February, 2002.

Cases pending with CBI

1326. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
DR. A.K. PATEL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that CBI is over-burdened with all sorts of cases;
- (b) if so, the number of pending cases with CBI as on the 31st October, 2001;
- (c) what steps have been taken by Government to recruit adequate staff in CBI so that cases are disposed of without much delay;
- (d) whether there is any proposal that CBI should conduct investigations into the complex cases and in such cases only as provided in the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1948; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The prime mandate of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is to undertake investigation of cases involving corruption in high places, economic and financial frauds in the Central Government and crimes committed by dangerous criminals, terrorists, which have inter-State/international ramifications and are entrusted to the CBI on the request of various State Governments. In the last few years, CBI has also taken up investigation of cases on the directions of Supreme Court/High Courts. On 1.1.1999 there were 1629 cases pending investigation in CBI and the number of such cases as on 31.10.2001 was 1646.

CBI primarily draws its senior level strength by taking officials on deputation and for the personnel at various levels recruitment in CBI is an ongoing process. However, Government has taken adequate steps to keep the disposition of staff in CBI at reasonably adequate level.

Under the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946 CBI can undertake investigation of only such cases where extent and jurisdiction is granted to it by specific order.

CVCs Suggestion to Check Corruption

1327. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

SHRI ABANI ROY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Vigilance Commissioner has recently suggested several measures to check corruption;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether various steps taken by Government to check corruption at various places have proved to be ineffective or Government are satisfied with the achievements;

(d) the other strategy to be adopted to check corruption in the country;

(e) the number of cases in which advice of the CVC is pending with Government for action for more than five years; and

(f) the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA R AJE): (a) and (b) In order to bring down the level of corruption in the country, the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has suggested several measures which, *inter-alia*, include enactment/amendments of certain laws like formulation of rules under the Benami Transaction Prohibition Act, enactment of Freedom of Information Act, amending the Income-Tax as well as Customs & Excise Act on the principle of zero exemption and zero discretion respectively apart from strengthening of vigilance and anti-corruption machinery.

(c) and (d) The Government is committed to provide clean administration and to eradicate corruption at all levels. The endeavor of the Government to check malpractice in administration is a continuing process. The policies formulated in this regard are modified from time to time in order to make them more effective and responsive to the changing environment. In the